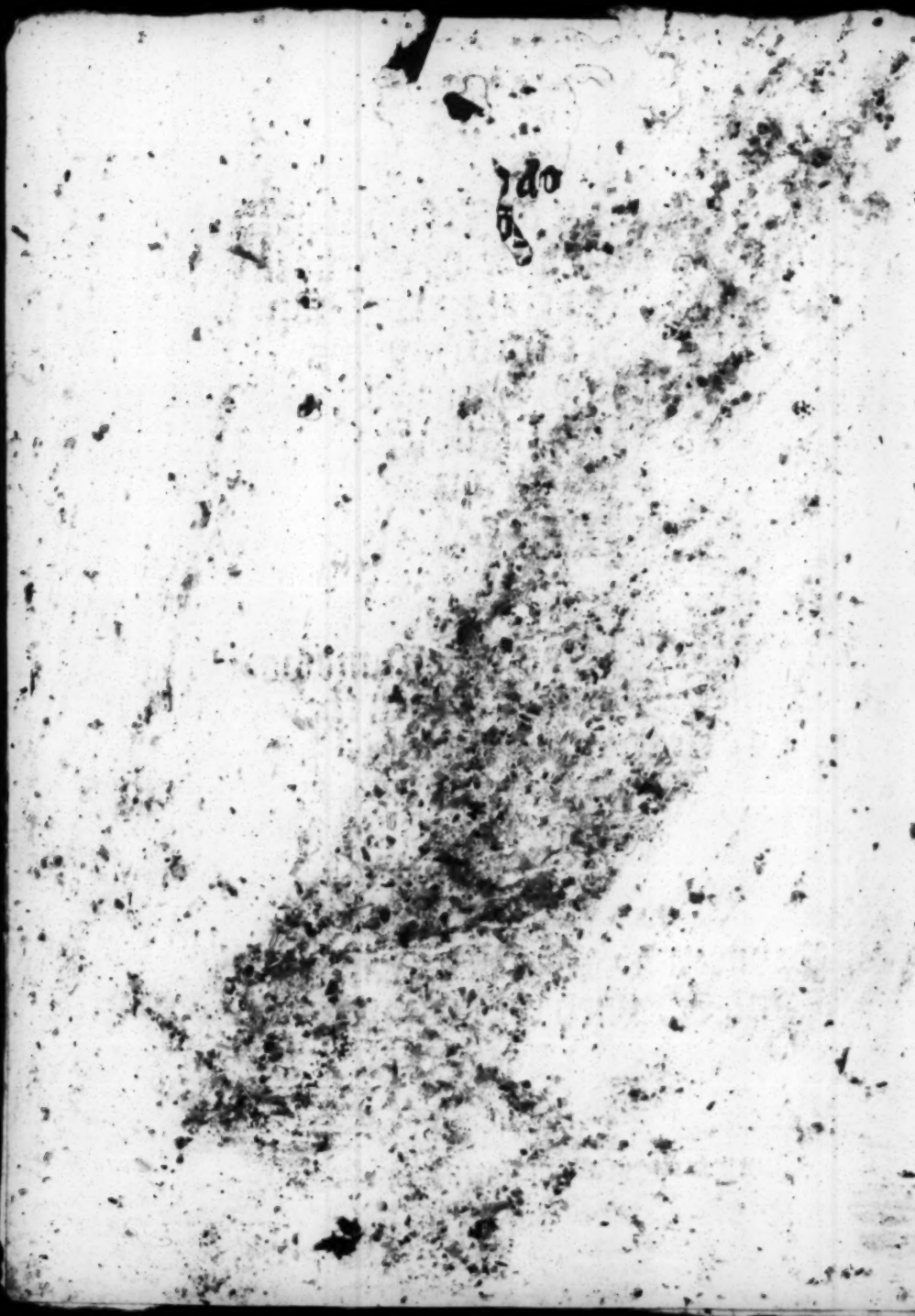
¶ The testament of Joseph whych was translated out of Greke into Latyne by a certayn bysshop of lyncoln called (by hys Syr name) Grosthede, and into Englishe, by wyllyam Freloue.

Reade thys pretye & wholsome volume, that maye theach the to fle from the abhominable synne of adultery.

Prynted by Rychard grafton and Edward whytchurch.

1530

Cum priuilegio ad imprimendum solum.



The prologue
that it be made oppyne.

¶ Yf this volume beynge but the Testament of one of the patriarckes, shall be thankfully perceaued of the good reader, Then shall I yf God permyt, do myne endeuour that thou mayst haue all the rest.

✠

Owe thys booke was
found, and cā to lyght,
ād of what auctho?yte
it is, hy?fely here after
shalbe declaryd. By
cause the hist o?y is of
the Jewys, it appe?yth the same to
haue bene wry?tyne in the?e p?oper
tōge o? tāguage, whiche is the hebrew
ād they beynge malycyouse aga?. ſt
Cheysten people kept the same ſe-
cret many yeris that it ſhould n-t
come abro?de, ſpecially by cause of
certayne p?ophecy whych is in the
ende touchyng the by?the of Chryſt
whych is greatly to they? repro?e
& shame. Thus after certayne yeris
the Grekes which be great ſercherꝭ
fo? the ſcrypture confeſſe theym
ſelues that they wry?tyn it ād trāſ
latyd it out of the hebrew, & ſo it
remaiꝑyd amōge the grekes many
yeryꝭ after, by cause ther was ne-

a ij rap

ray fewe foūd ỹ tyme whych were
experte in both tounges: that is to
saye in the Greke and Latyne. Un-
tyll such Season a certayne bysshop
of lynnoln here in England callyd
Robert the Secod and by hys Syr-
name Grosthed, whyche had herde
herof, being also that tyme namyd
a man of greate fame and lernyn-
ge, sent forthe hys lyres or messen-
gers & commaūdyd them to spare
no coste to serche for suche an-
cigne wrytynges. And in the yere
of oure Lorde. M. cc. xlij. he optey-
nyd and translatyd the same out of
the Greke into the Latyne. whych
reprouyth vice and abhomynable
aduiterye, and magnyfieth a chast
lyfe & matrymonye. All thys is cō-
sonant vnto god[illegible]orde accor-
dynge to hys saying: he that is not
against vs is with vs. this causeth
me to thynk it to be of sufficyent

auc-

auctho̅rite. Finally, it de[illegible] pu-
erly set forth chast matr[illegible]mony and
shewyth what grace and haboun-
dance of goodnes commyth therby
that it shuld be ynough to conuerte
a pagayne from abhomynable ly-
uynge, and to ensew the holly lyfe
of Joseph, wherof the hystory folo
wynge makyth mencyon, Whych
Joseph was one of the .xij. patri-
arkes: and the tytle or name of the
whole boke is callyd the Testame̅-
tes of the said .xij. patriarkes, whyc
che be full of the spyrite of Prophe-
cye. I entende therfore to translate
moo of theym wyth the permyss-
syon of God, yf time ād place shall
geue occasyon. Now God hym sel-
fe which gyuythe lyght to all crea-
tures hathe sent thys amonge hys
people as a myrroure to loke in, ac-
cordynge to hys holly worde say-
enge, Nothynge is hydden that

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the Grekes which be great sercher⁊
to⁊ the scry⁊pture confesse theym
selues that [illegible] ⁊pteryd it ãd trãs
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remaynyd amõge the grekes many
yerys after, by cause ther was ne-